

Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Program in California Questions and Answers

Can PAR funds be carried over to next year?

Districts may carry over PAR funds to the next fiscal year. It is recommended not to practice carryover of funds over a long period of time.

What are other uses of PAR funds?

Education Code Section 44506(b) states that a district that receives PAR funds may also use those funds for several other programs. Such as:

- (a) BTSA (Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment)
- (b) professional development or other educational activities formerly provided under the Mentor Teacher Program, and
- (c) any program that supports the training and development of new teachers.

How much can be used for "administrative expenses?" What are administrative expenses?

Education Code Section 44503(e) states that not more than 5 percent of the funds received for PAR may be spent for administrative expenses. District indirect costs (i.e., overhead) clearly are an administrative expense, and must be counted against the 5 percent cap. We understand that the cap is unrealistically low; unfortunately, it is the law.

How much money do I receive?

Most districts, about 880, received notices from CDE in February telling them their current year allocation.

PAR Program Implementation Date	Base Allocation*	Bonus Funding*	Total Allocation*
June 30, 2000	\$5,910	\$2,800	\$8,710
June 30, 2001	\$5,910	\$1,000	\$6,910

- amount for each 20 credentialed full-time classroom teachers, as reported on CBEDS

Note: Second Notices of Intent are due by May 31, 2001. CDE will then send Certification of Implementation forms to meet the July 1, 2001 deadline.

What happens if we do not implement a PAR program commencing July 2001?

You will jeopardize previous mentor allocations; PAR funds; the Instructional Time and Staff Development Reform (ITSDR) payments; and the mega-item block grant (Budget Act Item 6110-231-0001) which is an amount equal to approximately \$12 per ADA. These funds will not be available for the current fiscal year nor for subsequent years (unless the law is changed).

Note: These penalties are set forth in Education Code Sections 44504-44505.

I want to send in a Notice of Intent, but I am not sure we will have a PAR program by July 1, 2001. What should I do?

Send the Department of Education the Notice of Intent form. It is a notification of your intent to implement PAR in your district, nothing more, nothing less. It will qualify you for funding this year. If you are unable to implement a program by July 1, 2001, future funding as shown above is jeopardized. The Department will not seek to recover current fiscal year 2000-01 funds.

If I send in a Notice of Intent, what happens next?

The Department will send you a Certification form to certify that you have implemented a PAR program. You must return this form to us by July 1, 2001.

What does it mean to certify that my district has implemented PAR?

It means (at a minimum) that (1) you have negotiated the terms of the program with your teacher organization, if your teachers are organized; (2) you have some written policies relating to PAR; and (3) the PAR panel has been selected. The PAR panel must have a majority of teachers, selected by other teachers, and one or more administrators selected by the district.